

III. REMARKS

Claims 10-15 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 16-24 are new.

Claims 16-18 are not unpatentable over DE 196 06 188 (German '188 Patent) and DE 348 886 (German '886 Patent) under 35 USC §103(a).

Claim 16 recites a head disk with eccentric retaining pins in the knife's head disc that are used to attach the knife to the knife head disc. This is not disclosed by the combination of the German '188 Patent and the German '886 Patent. There is no disclosure in either of these references with respect to eccentric retaining pins.

Claim 16 also recites that the knife includes an aperture that accommodates a projection in the knife head disc that includes a scale. The scale is configured to identify a correct position of the eccentric pin. The Examiner suggests that the use of scales for measuring purposes is well known. However, in Applicant's claimed subject matter the scale is used to determine the correct position of the eccentric retaining pins, for ensuring the correct positioning of the knife at the knife head. This is not disclosed or suggested by the German '188 Patent, German '886 Patent or what is known.

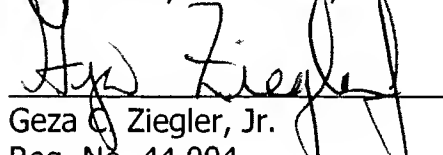
Thus, it is respectfully submitted that each and every feature recited in claim 16 is not disclosed or suggested by the proposed combination of references. Claims 17-24 should be allowable at least by reason of their respective dependencies. Furthermore, the subject matter recited by each of claims 17-24 is not disclosed or suggested by the proposed combination of references.

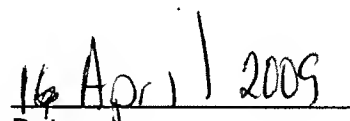
Therefore, it is submitted that claims 16-24 are allowable of the cited art of record.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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